



Weston Creek Men's Shed

Annual General Meeting

1pm – Thurs 14 September 2023

Minutes

- 1. Welcome:** Allan Booth, President, and Chairperson of the meeting.

Meeting Opened: 1pm. 22 Members present.

- 2. Apologies:** Alan Castle, John Warren, Lindsey Dempsey.

Proxies: Proxies were provided by Alex Zvargulis and Graham Lacey to the Chairperson, Mike Hardy to Dennis Mitchell, Clifton Frost to Allan Booth and Graham Plows to Brian Blackburn.

- 3. Adoption of the Minutes of the AGM of 18 August 2022**

The Minutes of the WCMS AGM held on 18 August 2022 were tabled by the Acting Secretary. There was no discussion of the Minutes.

Warren Jones moved that: *"In accordance with the Rules of the Weston Creek Men's Shed Inc, that the minutes of the meeting of the AGM for 2022, held on the 18 August 2022, as presented by the Acting Secretary of the Weston Creek Men's Shed Inc, be accepted by this meeting."*

Seconded: Don McCulloch; Carried.

- 4. Matters Arising from Minutes of 2022 AGM**

At the 2022 AGM, Duncan Souter suggested that the size of the Committee be increased to 9. The matter was referred to the new Committee.

- 4.1 Resolution by Committee on increasing the size of Committee**

Warren Jones reported that the Committee meeting held on 10 August 2023 had reviewed the suggestion to increase the size of the Committee to 9. The Committee resolved that the size of the Committee should remain at 8. The vote was unanimous.

- 5A. President's Annual Report**

Allan Booth tabled his report and read it to the meeting. The key points he covered were: thanking the Committee who served over the last 12 months; Covid and the impact on members; profitable sources of funds – Bunnings BBQ and the pop-up stalls at Coleman Court; the Shed's Welfare Committee; our strong financial position; the ongoing problem of adequate storage; facilities development; increased workshop activities; a slight drop in the number of members; and new changes to Taxation Laws which in turn poses increased reporting requirements for the Shed.

At this point, Terry Hourigan interjected and raised the issue of a ban on his workshop activities, imposed by the Committee, because of his failing eyesight. Terry said that he was suffering stress and seeking legal advice because a letter from his ophthalmologist had been rejected by the Committee. He also pointed out that he had asked the Committee to assess his skills and that nobody had done so (Note: no assessment was done by the Committee because Committee members felt they were not qualified to do so). Terry claimed he had been 'convicted' without due process because a letter banning him from using tools had been prepared 'before the meeting'.

It should be noted that this issue was dealt with by the Committee at a Special Committee Meeting in May and on several occasions after that. The privacy of the individual was of paramount importance.

Allan Booth noted the issue raised by Terry Hourigan and said that the Committee had offered to pay for a thorough examination and report by the ophthalmologist. Allan also pointed out that the offer had not been taken up.

It was suggested that this issue could be addressed under "Other Business" but Don McCulloch said that Other Business cannot be conducted at an AGM. Some of the members present disagreed with this view.

Terry Hourigan claimed that his issue should have been part of the President's report. Allan Booth said that it wasn't because he wanted to maintain confidentiality.

John Webster pointed that all the discussion on Terry's issue was off business. John Mitchell said that the matter was an issue for the next Committee and not relevant to the AGM. John Mitchell moved that: "*Terry Hourigan no longer be heard*".

Seconded: Tony Burns; Carried.

Alan Simpson suggested that a member of the Committee approach the specialist concerned to resolve the issue.

Brian Black said that he was not happy with what Terry was saying at the AGM. Brian told the meeting that he had approached AMSA about the issue with Terry and then contacted our insurance company. He said it was quite clear that we had a responsibility to Terry and if we didn't take steps to address the issue should an accident occur the insurance company would 'go after us'.

Don McCulloch said that the Shed should not bow to threats. He also asked why minutes of Committee meetings were not distributed to all members. Allan Booth replied he would ensure the minutes are displayed on the Shed Notice Board.

At this point, the President, Allan Booth, returned to the agenda and read out the Draft Activity Statement for the Annual Return to the government.

5B. Draft Activity Statement for Annual Return

Allan Booth tabled the document and read its contents to the meeting. Allan moved that: "*In accordance with the Rules of Weston Creek Men's Shed Inc, that the Annual Report and Draft Annual Return, as presented by the President of the Weston Creek Men's Shed Inc, for the Financial Year 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023, be Accepted by this Meeting.*"

Seconded: Bruce McKenzie; Carried.

6A. Treasurer's Report

Dennis Mitchell (Treasurer) read his report to the meeting. He moved that: *"In accordance with the Rules of Weston Creek Men's Shed Inc, that the Treasurer's Report for 2022-2023, as presented by the Treasurer of the Weston Creek Men's Shed Inc, be Accepted by this Meeting."*

Seconded: Terry Hourigan; Carried.

6B. Auditor's Report

Dennis Mitchell tabled the Auditor's Report and Observations by the Auditor. Dennis said that it costs about \$1000 per month to run the Shed and that issues with the internet provider, TPG, had finally been sorted out. Also, that some of the issues raised by the Auditor (e.g. debit card purchases not supported by receipts) were being addressed.

Dennis Mitchell moved that: *"In accordance with the Rules of Weston Creek Men's Shed Inc, that the Auditor's Report for 2022-2023, as presented by the Treasurer of the Weston Creek Men's Shed Inc, be Accepted by this Meeting."*

Seconded: Brian Blackburn; Carried.

7. Appointment of Auditor for 2023/2024

Allan Booth noted that we had used Mr Ian Davis as the Shed's auditor for several years and recommended we continue to do so.

Allan Booth moved that: *"In accordance with the Rules of Weston Creek Men's Shed Inc, and as specified in Sections 75 and 76 of the ACT Associations Incorporation Act 1991, that Mr Ian Davies be appointed as the Auditor of the Weston Creek Men's Shed Inc, for the Financial Year 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024."*

Seconded: Dennis Mitchell; Carried.

Allan Booth pointed out that Ian Davis does not charge for his services and that in the past the Shed has bought Ian a gift card to say thankyou.

Allan Booth moved that: *"the Shed donates \$100 in the form of a gift card to Ian Davis."*

Seconded: John webster; Carried.

8. Workshop Manager's Report

Allan Booth tabled the Workshop Manager's Report for 2022-23. He read his report to the meeting and highlighted the work carried out in the workshop to raise funds, the purchase and installation of new equipment (e.g. the CNC router and laptop computer), the Container for Good, and the increase in the number of active members in the workshop.

Warren Jones commented that a maintenance schedule for all tools and machinery had been developed. Dennis Mitchell added that the maintenance issue had been raised by the Auditor, that tools had to be maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications.

Allan Booth moved that: *"In accordance with the Rules of Weston Creek Men's Shed Inc, that the Workshop Report for 2022-2023, as presented by the Workshop Manager of the Weston Creek Men's Shed Inc, be Accepted by this Meeting."*

Seconded: Dennis Mitchell; Carried.

9. Membership Fees 2024/2025

Dennis Mitchell, the Treasurer, pointed out that the Shed's costs are rising and that, for example, \$26 out of the current \$40 membership fee goes to insurance. Allan Booth said that compared with other Sheds, WCMS fees were very low. There was no discussion on the proposed small rise in the annual membership fee.

Dennis Mitchell moved that: *"In accordance with the Rules of Weston Creek Men's Shed Inc, the Members present at this Annual General Meeting confirm the determination of the Committee, dated 13 July 2023, that the Membership and Meeting Fees for the Financial Year commencing 1 July 2024 shall be as follows:*

FINANCIAL MEMBERSHIP FEES (Full Year): \$50.00

MEETING FEES: \$ 5.00/Meeting (Week)

These Fees shall be effective from 1 July 2024."

Seconded: Bruce McKenzie; Carried

10. Adoption of the Minutes of the GM of 14 September 2023

Warren Jones, the Acting Secretary, tabled the minutes of the General Meeting held just prior to the AGM. That meeting sought to review and endorse the updated Rules for the Shed. There was no discussion on the minutes of the General Meeting.

Warren Jones moved that: *"In accordance with the Rules of the Weston Creek Men's Shed Inc, that the minutes of the General Meeting held on 14 September 2023, and as presented by the Acting Secretary of the Weston Creek Men's shed Inc, be accepted by this meeting."*

Seconded: Don McCulloch: Carried.

11. Election of Office Bearers and Committee Members

(President; Vice President; Secretary; Treasurer; and 4 Committee Members)

The following nominations were received:

President: Brian Black

Vice President: John Webster

Secretary: No nominations

Treasurer: Dennis Mitchell

Committee: Alex Zvargulis, Allan Booth, Tony Burns, John Warren, Bruce McKenzie and Terry Hourigan.

Allan Booth thanked members of the current Committee.

At this point Brian Black withdrew his nomination for President. He said he would not be President and part of the Committee whilst the threat of legal action by Terry Hourigan remained. Brian asked for the threat to be moved.

Terry Hourigan disputed Brian's statement and said that he had never made a threat and that his words about legal action was just a statement.

At this point Brian Black left the meeting.

John Webster stated that he will not stand for Vice President if Brian Black is not the President. Dennis Mitchell said the same.

Terry Hourigan then stated to the meeting that he would never take legal action against the WCMS and that the Shed really meant a lot to him.

Bruce McKenzie and Terry Hourigan removed their nomination for the Committee.

At this point, The President adjourned the meeting for 20 minutes so that the Committee could consider what strategies to address the stalemate.

Don McCulloch suggested that the AGM be adjourned till a later date.

Allan Booth said that the meeting should continue with the election of the new Committee. Some Committee members pointed out that, provided there was a quorum (5) of new Committee members, then the Committee, could under the Rules [Clause 16.3 and 16.5] of the WCMS appoint a member to a vacant position on the Committee.

Both John Webster and Dennis Mitchell agreed to go ahead with their respective nominations.

Those members of the Committee discussing the threat issue agreed that the statement by Terry Hourigan to the meeting that, "he would never take legal action against WCMS", and that statement being noted in these minutes, was sufficient evidence that the threat had been withdrawn.

On this basis, the President recalled the members to the meeting and the election of office bearers commenced.

As there was now only one nomination for each of the Executive Positions of Vice President and Treasurer, the Rules [17.2] were invoked and thus, the nominees were taken as duly elected.

Those elected were:

Vice Present: John webster

Treasurer: Dennis Mitchell

As there are four nominees for the four Member positions on the committee, those four nominees were also duly elected under the provision of the Rules [17.2].

Those elected were:

Committee Members: Alex Zvargulis, Allan Booth, Tony Burns and John Warren.

The President and Secretary will be appointed by the new Committee as and when suitable nominations are received.

12. Other Business: Nil

13. Date of Next AGM: September 2024. Actual day to be confirmed.

14. Close of Meeting:

Allan Booth made some closing comments to the meeting. He thanked all members and urged them to be kind and encourage one another. He noted that any position in the Shed carries huge responsibilities and entails a lot of work. He said that at times the role of President is difficult but not without rewards. Importantly though, we must ensure that we are all safe.

The meeting closed at 2.50 pm.

Warren Jones

Acting Secretary

Weston Creek Men's Shed Inc

15 September 2023